



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

## Dumpsters & Loading Dock Areas:

When it rains or water flows out of yards or over pavement, it flows directly into storm drains. Many people mistakenly believe this water gets “cleaned” before reaching waterways. The sewer system and the storm water conveyance systems (drains, inlets and catch basins) are separate; they are not connected. Sewer water gets treated, but everything that washes into the storm water conveyance system goes untreated directly into our rivers, creeks, bays and ocean. This causes beach closures and postings due to contamination. Releasing pollutants into the storm water collection system is a violation of the City Municipal Code (43.0301).

**Dumpsters.** They are useful disposal containers we all use. And, because they are intended to take-away our discarded trash they can often be a source of storm water pollution. Similarly, **Loading Docks** are a useful, heavily used industrial structural feature that can be the place where pollutants originate and accumulate at a site. Here are some **Storm Water Best Management Practices for using and cleaning-up Dumpsters and Loading Dock Areas:**

**Identify and Locate** the storm drains on your premises and down the street where pollutants may migrate to from your dumpster or loading dock area(s). Being aware of what you are trying to protect and where it's located is a great start in becoming a “Clean Water Leader”.

**Check** storm water conveyance systems frequently and clean out the debris.

**Keep dumpster lids closed** to keep rain water and landscape irrigation out. Never place liquid waste **or leaky garbage bags into a dumpster**. Routinely check dumpsters for leaks. And, call your trash disposal leasing company to **replace** leaking dumpsters and dirty compactors.

**When using a hose or power washing equipment** to keep dumpsters and loading dock areas clean, all wash water must be properly controlled, contained and captured in accordance with Municipal Code 43.0301. Alternative cleaning methods include the use of absorbents – cat litter, sand, etc. – on the spilled fluids before sweeping them up. Remember that contaminated fluids can spill onto the ground when dumpsters are emptied and must not reach the storm water conveyance system.

**Post spill clean-up procedures** near the dumpster or loading dock areas. Be sure to include procedures for different types of spills (dirt, oil, grease, automotive fluids, cleaning fluids, yard waste, chemicals, etc). Schedule for training and refresher training for employees about the procedures. Create clean-up kits and place in areas where spills are likely to occur.

**Sweep up** dumpster and loading dock areas frequently to keep litter from accumulating. An area that's kept neat and clean encourages others to do the same.

### Other Fact sheets that may pertain to your activities:

- ✓ Cleaning Impervious Surfaces (high pressure washing)
- ✓ Restaurants
- ✓ Spills
- ✓ Be A Clean Water Leader: Control, Contain & Capture

Think  
&  
Act  
Blue



Adopt these behaviors and help Clean-up our beaches and bays. **Think Blue San Diego.** For more information, call (619) 235-1000, or log on to: [www.thinkbluesd.org](http://www.thinkbluesd.org) (3/2/04)